

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace sheet 1 of the drawings with the replacement sheet attached to the concurrently filed Submission of Formal Drawings.

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4, and 6 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification, claims 1-2 and the drawings are amended. No new matter is added.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6 are pending in the application. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 2, 4 and 6 are allowed.

The Office Action objects to the Figures. In particular, the Office Action asserts that the "tilting shafts" must be shown in at least one Figure since they are included in the claims. In the Submission of Formal Drawings filed herewith, Applicants have amended Figure 2 to include a tilting shaft 31d. Applicants have also amended paragraph [0021] of the specification accordingly. Approval of the drawing change and reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the Figures are thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to claims 1 and 2 for containing an asserted informality. Applicants have amended these claims as suggested by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 1 and 2 are thus respectively requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Nakano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,250,714 B1) in view of Viano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,378,043). This rejection is traversed.

As the Office Action notes, the Nakano et al. head rest apparatus lacks an urging member urging the head rest frame from the rear to a forward direction so as to be thrust to a stopper member, as required by present claim 1.

The Office Action asserts that Viano et al. show an urging member that urges a head rest frame in a backward tilting direction.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the “spring 18” in Viano et al. does not urge the head rest frame in any direction. In particular, Viano et al. state that their spring 18 is used “to prevent [headrest cushion 6]’s rotation” (col. 1, lines 59-61). As the purpose of the spring 18 is to prevent rotation, there would have been no reason to modify the function of the spring 18 to cause rotation by urging the head rest frame in any direction.

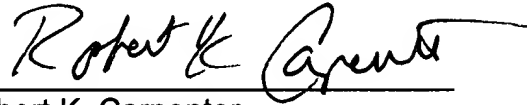
Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the Viano et al. fails to make up for the deficiencies in Nakano et al. As neither Nakano et al. nor Viano et al. appear to teach or suggest an urging member urging a head rest frame to a forward direction, as required by the present claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that present claim 1 would have been obvious over the combination of these references.

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant’s undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to Counsel's Deposit Account 01-2300, referring to client-matter number 108421-00026.

Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account
No. 01-2300, making references to attorney docket 108421-00026.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert K. Carpenter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Robert K. Carpenter
Registration No. 34,794

Customer No. 004372
ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN, PLLC
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Tel: (202) 857-6000
Fax: (202) 638-4810

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